

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Maternal and child nutrition: improving nutritional status.

2 Introduction

2.1 *NICE quality standards*

NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

The standards are derived from high-quality guidance, such as that from NICE or [accredited](#) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with health, public health and social care practitioners, their partners and service users. Information on priority areas, people's experience of using services, safety issues, equality and cost impact are considered during the development process.

NICE quality standards are central to supporting the Government's vision for a health and social care system that is focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for people who use services, as detailed in the [Health and Social Care Act \(2012\)](#).

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the [NICE website](#).

2.2 *This topic overview*

This topic overview describes core elements of the quality standard. These include the population and topic to be covered, key source guidance to be

used to underpin potential quality statements, any related quality standards, published current practice information and national or routine indicators and performance measures.

If the source guidance is not NICE guidance, it should meet the minimum quality criteria defined in NICE's [accreditation programme](#).

3 This quality standard

This quality standard is expected to publish in July 2015.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover improving nutrition for women of childbearing age pre-conception, during pregnancy and post-pregnancy (up to a year after birth) and for babies and pre-school children particularly focussing on low-income and other disadvantaged households.

The quality standard will cover public health strategies and NHS interventions to improve the nutritional status of women of childbearing age pre-conception, during pregnancy and post-pregnancy (up to a year after birth) and for babies and pre-school children, reducing disparities in the nutrition of low-income and other disadvantaged groups compared with the general population.

It does not cover population-based screening programmes or national maternal and child nutrition policies. It does not cover the nutritional status and care of women and children with clinical conditions that require specialist advice, secondary dietary management, or clinical therapeutic advice, for whom normal care would be inappropriate. For example, it does not cover women and children with diabetes, epilepsy or HIV, or the care of low birth weight babies.

3.2 Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited sources)

Primary source

- [Maternal and child nutrition](#) (2008) NICE guideline PH11.

NICE quality standard: Maternal and child nutrition: improving nutritional status overview (October 2014)

Other sources that may be used

- [Vitamin D: implementation of existing guidance to prevent deficiency](#) (publication expected November 2014) NICE guideline.
- [Weight management before, during and after pregnancy](#) (2010) NICE guideline PH27.
- [Antenatal care](#) (2008) NICE guideline CG62.
- [Postnatal care: routine postnatal care of women and their babies](#) (2006) NICE guideline CG37.

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

Relevant policy documents, reports and national audits will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

- Department of Health and Public Health England (2014) [Framework for personalised care and population health](#).
- NHS England (2014) [Maternity and breastfeeding](#).
- Department of Health (2013) [Giving all children a healthy start in life](#).
- Department of Health and Public Health England (2013) [The midwifery public health contribution](#).
- Department of Health and Public Health England (2013) [Nursing and midwifery actions at the three levels of public health practice](#).
- Department of Health (2012) [National diet and nutrition survey: headline results from years 1, 2 and 3 \(combined\) of the Rolling Programme 2008/09 – 2010/11](#).
- Department of Health (2012) [New statutory arrangements for Healthy Start vitamins](#).
- The Health and Social Care Information Centre (2012) [Infant feeding survey – UK, 2010](#).
- Public Health England (2011) [SACN Early life nutrition report](#).
- Audit Commission (2010) [Giving children a healthy start](#).
- Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (2010) [Maternal obesity in the UK: findings from a national project](#).

- Department of Health (2010) [Breastfeeding and introducing solid foods: consumer insight summary](#).
- Department of Health (2009) [Healthy child programme: pregnancy and the first 5 years of life](#).
- Public Health England (2007) [SACN Update on vitamin D – 2007](#) (Update to be published 2015).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Postnatal care](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 37.
- [Nutrition support in adults](#) (2012) NICE quality standard 24.
- [Antenatal care](#) (2012) NICE quality standard 22.

In development

- [Obesity: prevention and lifestyle weight management in children and young people](#). Publication expected November 2014.

Future quality standards

This quality standard will be developed in the context of all quality standards referred to NICE, including the following quality standards scheduled for future development:

- Childhood obesity.
- Early years: promoting health and wellbeing in the early years, including those in complex families.
- Maternal health: promoting maternal health through community-based strategies.
- Obesity (adults).
- Obesity - prevention and management in adults.

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](#) on the NICE website.

4 Existing indicators

- [Health Survey for England](#) The Health and Social Care Information Centre.

5 Further information

See the NICE website for more information about [NICE quality standards](#) and the [progress of this quality standard](#).